

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising;

- a. a frangible fibrous layer comprising a first fibrous component,
- b. a substrate layer comprising a second fibrous component and/or unit-area film component,
- c. wherein said first fibrous component of the frangible fibrous layer exhibits an elastic modulus at least 20% less than that of the second fibrous component and/or unit area component of the substrate layer,
- d. said frangible fibrous layer being deposited upon said substrate layer and subjected to external energy such that the first fibrous component fragments into multiple sub-fibers, and
- e. said sub-fibers being integrated into the substrate layer by said external energy to which said frangible fibrous layer is subjected.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising;

- a. a frangible fibrous layer comprising a first fibrous component,
- b. ~~said first fibrous component having a denier of equal to or less than 500 nanometers,~~
- c. a substrate layer comprising a second fibrous component,
- d. c. said second fibrous component comprising finite staple length fibers,

~~e- d.~~ wherein said first fibrous component of the frangible fibrous layer exhibits an elastic modulus at least 20% less than that of the second fibrous component and/or unit area component of the substrate layer,

~~f- e.~~ said frangible fibrous layer being deposited upon said substrate layer and subjected to hydraulic energy such that the first fibrous component fragments into multiple sub-fibers, said sub-fibers having a diameter equal to or less than 500 nanometers ~~denier the same as that of the first fibrous component~~, and

~~g- f.~~ said sub-fibers being hydroentangled into the substrate layer by said hydraulic energy to which said frangible fibrous layer is subjected.

Claim 3 (original). A nonwoven barrier fabric as in Claim 2, wherein said nonwoven fabric is a component in a medical barrier article.

Claim 4 (original). A medical barrier article as in Claim 3, wherein said article is a medical gown.

Claim 5 (original). A medical barrier article as in Claim 3, wherein said article is a medical drape.

Claim 6 (original). A medical barrier article as in Claim 3, wherein said article is a central supply wrap.

Claim 7 (original). A nonwoven barrier fabric as in Claim 2, wherein said nonwoven fabric is a component in a hygiene article.

Claim 8 (original). A hygiene article as in Claim 7, wherein said article is a diaper.

Claim 9 (original). A hygiene article as in Claim 7, wherein said article is a feminine hygiene pad.

Claim 10 (new). A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising;

- a. a frangible fibrous layer comprising a first fibrous component,
- b. a substrate layer comprising a second fibrous component and/or film component,
- c. said frangible fibrous layer being deposited upon said substrate layer and subjected to hydraulic energy such that the first fibrous component fragments into multiple sub-fibers, and
- e. said sub-fibers being integrated into the substrate layer by said hydraulic energy to which said frangible fibrous layer is subjected.

Claim 11 (new). A nonwoven barrier fabric as in Claim 10, wherein said nonwoven fabric is a component in a medical barrier article.